

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to the labeling of each FIG. and include the addition of the term "(PRIOR ART)" to FIGS. 1A - 4. Other modifications include corrections to reference numbering and clean up of other minor errors. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Attachments:       Annotated Sheets 1 - 8 Showing Changes (Appendix C)  
                          Replacement Sheets 1 - 8

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

After entry of this amendment, claims 2 - 4 and 6 - 20 will be pending in the application. Claims 2 - 4 have been amended and claims 6 - 20 have been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2 - 4 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Anson, Greenhalgh, and Hossainy respectively. In response to these rejections claims 2 - 4 have been amended.

Claim 2 has been amended to explicitly recite that the stent includes ring-like elements that are connected by flexible connecting elements. It is believed that a stent including such features is not taught by Anson.

Claim 3 has been amended to include initial, first and second groups of ring-like elements where the first and second groups of ring-like elements may be interlaced and then separated. It is believed that a stent including such features is not taught by Greenhalgh.

Claim 4 has been amended to indicate that the passages within the struts are spiral passages. It is believed that a stent including such passages is not taught by Hossainy.

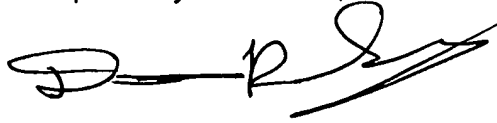
Claim 17 is the only other independent claim. Claim 17 is much like claim 4 with the exception that instead of reciting spiral passages it recites that the passages extend a length of the struts.

As the remaining claims depend from claims 2 - 4 or 17, directly or indirectly, it is believed that they are novel for at least the above noted reasons. However, it is also believed that most of these claims add additional features that are not found in the prior art of record.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth herein it is believed that the rejections have been overcome. Reconsideration of the rejections and passage of the application to allowance is requested.

If any questions should arise concerning this application or it would otherwise be useful to discuss this application, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned by phone so as to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis R. Smalley', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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